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COORDINATING COMMITTEEMEMORANDUM BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION

4247744

EXPORT OF AN ANALOGUE COMPUTER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The French Delegation have the honour to inform the Coordinating Committee that the competent French department has received a request for a license to export an analogue computer to Czechoslovakia. This computer, known as O.M.E. Type 2, is an apparatus of small dimensions which, owing to its low consumption, its comparatively low price (\$ 46,000) and its limited scope, cannot be considered in the same way as an analogue computer of high capacity capable of use for aeronautical and ballistic calculations, such as, for example, the large groups of equipment produced by the I.B.M.

The O.M.E. in fact only enables the carrying out of calculations of relative simplicity by making it possible to reduce the time which would be required by a human calculator to carry out the same series of operations and, above all, to succeed in working out a problem completely.

The equipment is very easy to work and has been specially designed to reduce handling to a minimum.

This export forms part of a transaction which is bound by the terms of an Appendix to the current Franco-Czechoslovak agreement. Failure to effect it would thus lead to serious difficulties in the carrying out of the whole transaction.

The French Delegation believe that the supply of this equipment to Czechoslovakia could not in any way increase the Soviet Bloc's knowledge in this domain. Indeed, from the Record of Discussions on the Revision of Strategic Export Controls; Administrative Principle No. 3 (COCOM 2869.64 dated the 18th November 1958) it appears that the Moscow Science Faculty places at the disposal of its students a group of computers in the same class as that whose export is requested and more extensive than anything comparable in Western countries.

This naturally leads one to suppose that the needs of industry have all been met and that Russia certainly possesses more highly-perfected machines than those supplied to students for simple experiments.

The French Delegation are in a position to inform the Committee that the Czechoslovak authorities have agreed that at any time an official of the French Embassy in Prague may verify that the stated use is being respected.

The French Delegation submit this export request to the Committee on an ad hoc basis and would be grateful if views could be given as soon as possible.

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